United Nations A/60/233

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 October 2005
English
Original: Spanish

Sixtieth session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixtieth session

Granting of observer status in the General Assembly to the Ibero-American Conference

Letter dated 20 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with the decision adopted at the Fifteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American Conference, held in Salamanca on 14 and 15 October 2005, and in accordance with rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, entitled "Granting of observer status in the General Assembly to the Ibero-American Conference".

In accordance with rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure, I attach an explanatory memorandum (see annex I) in support of the request and a draft resolution on the subject (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes distributed as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Juan Antonio **Yáñez-Barnuevo**
Permanent Representative

05-56506 (E) 241005 241005

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

1. The First Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1991, set up the Ibero-American Conference of Heads of State and Government, with the participation of the sovereign Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking States of the Americas and Europe.

2. The Ibero-American Summits of Heads of State and Government held in Guadalajara, Mexico (1991), Madrid (1992) and Salvador, Bahia, Brazil (1993) laid the foundations of the Ibero-American community and recognized that democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are the pillars of that community. The Summits held to date (some of which were attended by the Secretary-General of the United Nations) have reiterated the full validity of and their commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

3. The Summit of Heads of State and Government is the highest forum of the Ibero-American Conference, which also comprises the meetings of ministers for foreign affairs, meetings of the regional coordinating offices responsible for cooperation and Ibero-American sectoral ministerial meetings.

4. The Fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, in 1995, established the institutional framework regulating cooperation relations among the members of the Conference. According to the San Carlos de Bariloche Agreement on Cooperation in the Framework of the Ibero-American Conference (article 2), the purpose of cooperation programmes and projects within the framework of the Ibero-American Conference shall be basically to promote an Ibero-American identity through joint action in the areas of education, culture, science and technology with a view to developing an Ibero-American sphere of cooperation.

5. At the Eighth Ibero-American Summit, held in Oporto, Portugal, in 1998, the Heads of State and Government agreed to set up the Secretariat for Ibero-American Cooperation (SECIB), which was formally constituted at the Ninth Ibero-American Summit, held in Havana in 1999. At the Thirteenth Summit, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in 2003, the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) was established as a successor to SECIB and as an international organization with its own legal personality.

6. SEGIB has its Headquarters in Madrid and, as an organ providing support to the Ibero-American Conference, has the following aims: (a) to contribute to the strengthening of the Ibero-American community and to give it international prominence; (b) to assist in the preparatory process for the Ibero-American Summits and for all Ibero-American meetings; (c) to consolidate the work done in the cooperation area within the framework of the Ibero-American Conference, promoting cooperation in accordance with the Bariloche Agreement; and (d) to promote the historical, cultural, social and economic ties among the Ibero-American countries, recognizing and valuing the diversity of their peoples.

7. SEGIB has a secretary-general, appointed by consensus by the Heads of State and Government at the proposal of the plenary meeting of ministers for foreign

affairs. His term of office is four years and he is assisted by a deputy secretary and the secretary for Ibero-American cooperation.

8. The Fourteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in San José, Costa Rica, in 2004, agreed on the statute that will govern the Ibero-American Secretariat as a permanent organ providing institutional, technical and administrative support to the Ibero-American Conference and responsible for fulfilling the mandates it receives from the summits of ministers for foreign affairs and for assisting the secretariat pro tempore with preparations for the Ibero-American Summits.

9. The Ibero-American Secretariat was set in motion at the Fifteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Salamanca, Spain, in 2005, with the appointment of its first secretary-general, Enrique V. Iglesias. It was given the task of following up the various hunger- and poverty-eradication initiatives under way within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals by promoting debt-for-education programmes within the Ibero-American community.

10. Bearing in mind the mandate of the Fifteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government in Salamanca, as contained in the Salamanca Declaration, and with a view to strengthening and institutionalizing the relations of the Ibero-American Conference with the United Nations in order to improve cooperation between the two organizations, it would be appropriate for the Ibero-American Conference to be granted observer status in the General Assembly.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Granting of observer status in the General Assembly to the Ibero-American Conference

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Ibero-American Conference,

1. *Decides* to invite the Ibero-American Conference to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly as an observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

United Nations A/60/234

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 November 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixtieth session

Protracted conflicts in the Black Sea — South Caucasus region and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 14 November 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Protracted conflicts in the Black Sea — South Caucasus region and their implications for international peace, security and development", with subsequent consideration of this item directly at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly, under heading A "Maintenance of international peace and security".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is herewith attached (see annex).

05-61036 (E) 181105

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex urgently circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative
Republic of Azerbaijan

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Permanent Representative
Georgia

(*Signed*) Vsevolod **Grigore**
Permanent Representative
Republic of Moldova

(*Signed*) Valeriy **Kuchinsky**
Permanent Representative
Ukraine

Annex

Explanatory memorandum

The protracted conflicts in the Black Sea — South Caucasus region, namely in the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova, Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia in Georgia and the Nagorny-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, constitute a serious threat to international peace and security, endanger the sovereignty and territorial integrity of three States Members of the United Nations, have resulted in loss of control over considerable parts of the territory of those sovereign States and the continued occupation of a significant part of the territory of one sovereign State, caused multi-million refugee flows and internal displacement, and hamper the economic and social development of millions of people in the region.

Regretfully, international mediation over the conflicts has yielded no results and led to their prolongation. The protracted nature of the conflicts has caused the emergence of territories that are beyond the control of the central legitimate authorities. Those territories appear to be the primary breeding grounds for new and old security challenges like terrorism, aggressive separatism, organized crime, trafficking in human beings, drug smuggling and proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

In the Charter of the United Nations and in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome the Member States expressed the resolve to combine their efforts to maintain international peace and security and to that end reaffirmed their dedication to upholding the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, and to bring about resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with principles of justice and international law.

Given the far-reaching implications of these protracted conflicts for international peace and security, regional stability and development, the Governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine, proceeding from the 2005 Chisinau Declaration of the GUAM Heads of State entitled "In the name of democracy, stability and development" (see A/59/796), deem it necessary for this question to be considered as a matter of priority by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session under an item entitled "Protracted conflicts in the Black Sea — South Caucasus region and their implications for international peace, security and development", with a view to taking appropriate action to deal with this acute and pressing problem in all its aspects.

United Nations A/60/234

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 November 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixtieth session

Protracted conflicts in the Black Sea — South Caucasus region and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 14 November 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Protracted conflicts in the Black Sea — South Caucasus region and their implications for international peace, security and development", with subsequent consideration of this item directly at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly, under heading A, "Maintenance of international peace and security".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is herewith attached (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex urgently circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative
Republic of Azerbaijan

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Permanent Representative
Georgia

(*Signed*) Vsevolod **Grigore**
Permanent Representative
Republic of Moldova

(*Signed*) Valeriy **Kuchinsky**
Permanent Representative
Ukraine

* Reissued for technical reasons.

05-61036* (E) 221105

Annex

Explanatory memorandum

The protracted conflicts in the Black Sea — South Caucasus region, namely in the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova, Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia in Georgia and the Nagorny-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, constitute a serious threat to international peace and security, endanger the sovereignty and territorial integrity of three States Members of the United Nations, have resulted in loss of control over considerable parts of the territory of those sovereign States and the continued occupation of a significant part of the territory of one sovereign State, caused multi-million refugee flows and internal displacement, and hamper the economic and social development of millions of people in the region.

Regretfully, international mediation over the conflicts has yielded no results, and that has led to their prolongation. The protracted nature of the conflicts has caused the emergence of territories that are beyond the control of the central legitimate authorities. Those territories appear to be the primary breeding grounds for new and old security challenges like terrorism, aggressive separatism, organized crime, trafficking in human beings, drug smuggling and proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

In the Charter of the United Nations and in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome the Member States expressed the resolve to combine their efforts to maintain international peace and security and to that end reaffirmed their dedication to upholding the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, and to bring about resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with principles of justice and international law.

Given the far-reaching implications of these protracted conflicts for international peace and security, regional stability and development, the Governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine, proceeding from the 2005 Chisinau Declaration of the GUAM Heads of State entitled "In the name of democracy, stability and development" (see A/59/796), deem it necessary for this question to be considered as a matter of priority by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session under an item entitled "Protracted conflicts in the Black Sea — South Caucasus region and their implications for international peace, security and development", with a view to taking appropriate action to deal with this acute and pressing problem in all its aspects.

United Nations A/60/235

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 November 2005
English
Original: English/Spanish

Sixtieth session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixtieth session

Follow-up to the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme

Letter dated 17 November 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to present my compliments to you and, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and on the instructions of my Government, to request the inclusion in the agenda of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly of an additional item, entitled "Follow-up to the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum setting out the reasons for the above request is attached (see annex). Pursuant to rule 43 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I also request that my delegation be permitted to attend and participate in any meeting of the General Committee at which this request is discussed.

Lastly, I have the honour respectfully to request you to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Stagno**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

05-61445 (E) 231105 231105

Annex

[Original: English/Spanish]

Explanatory memorandum

On 7 September 2005, one week before the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly and subsequent to three earlier reports on the United Nations oil-for-food programme, the Independent Inquiry Committee submitted to the Security Council a full evaluation of the management of that programme entitled "The Management of the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme". Although the report was repeatedly quoted during the negotiations on the Summit Outcome document, its recommendations were not reflected in that document.

The Security Council has been the United Nations body that has received the results of the work of the Committee in accordance with resolution 1538 (2004). However, the six major recommendations listed in section XII of chapter 1 of volume I of the report refer to administrative management and oversight, which should be considered and analysed by the General Assembly.

The report of the Independent Inquiry Committee concluded that the difficulties encountered in the administrative management and internal oversight of the oil-for-food programme were "symptomatic of systemic problems in United Nations administration" and that "consequently, the lessons drawn are broadly applicable to the Organization as a whole" (vol. I, p. 1). The Committee also pointed out that the "main conclusions are unambiguous ... the Organization requires stronger executive leadership, thoroughgoing administrative reform, and more reliable controls and auditing" (vol. I, p. 1).

Taking into account Article 100, paragraphs 1 and 2, and article 101, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Charter, the Committee's report states that "professional disciplines at the United Nations are weak and eroded, and the Secretariat, from its senior levels on down, proved unable to deal effectively with political pressures on its administrative processes ... [and that] there appears to be a pervasive culture of responsibility avoidance and resistance to accountability" (vol. I, p. 13).

In section XII of volume I, the report makes the following recommendation which fall within the framework of the competence of the General Assembly:

- Create the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO)
- Strengthen independence of oversight and auditing
- Improve coordination and the oversight framework for cross-agency programmes
- Reform and improve management performance
- Expand conflict-of-interest and financial disclosure requirements
- Cost recovery

Taking into account the conclusions of the report, Costa Rica considers that all Member States of the United Nations should study the report and ensure effective follow-up to it in accordance with the procedure established for the consideration of

items and the taking of decisions by the General Assembly as the organ responsible for administrative management.

During the presentation of the report on 7 September 2005 to the Security Council, the Chairman of the Independent Inquiry Committee himself emphasized the urgent need "to take action by the time the General Assembly completes its sixtieth regular session". Given the importance attached by Costa Rica to the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry Committee, we feel that the General Assembly should consider those proposals in order to take appropriate action, bearing in mind rules 152 to 157 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

For the foregoing reasons, Costa Rica, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, is requesting the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly entitled "Follow-up to the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme".